

Remarks

Claims 1-31 and 33-36 are pending in the application. Claim 32 was previously canceled. Claim 35 has been amended to include limits already in claim 1. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment. Reconsideration of the application in view of this response is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-31, 33, 34, and 36.

Claim Rejections— 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Tsuboi in view of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner states that "Tsuboi does not explicitly teach any specific spacing between sensors. Nonetheless, modifying Tsuboi to have the relative dimensions as recited in the claims would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art through routine experimentation because where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device is not patentably distinct from the prior art device."

The Examiner further states, "In order to overcome the rejection, the claims must recite some features, other than the dimensions themselves, that distinguish the claims from the prior art device, or the applicant must show that the prior art device with the recited dimensions would perform differently than the claimed device."

Applicant has amended claim 35 to recite features that distinguish the claims from the prior art device or Tsuboi. Limits added to claim 35 were already in claim 1 so applicant believes that no further search is required. None of the teachings or suggestions of Tsuboi provide for the limits of claim 35, as amended, that state:

35. A system for providing displacement or velocity information, comprising an array of sensors, each said sensor capable of providing a measurement of at least one from the group consisting of displacement and velocity, wherein said sensors are on center to center spacing of less than 3mm, wherein each said sensor includes a coil, a captive core, and a bearing for supporting said captive core, wherein said coil has a coil inside diameter, wherein said bearing has a bearing outside diameter, wherein said bearing outside diameter is greater than said coil inside diameter.

Tsuboi does not teach or suggest a bearing having an outside diameter that is greater than the coil inside diameter. Tsuboi only provides schematic diagrams and general description. No mention of how to actually build a functioning array of displacement sensors is given. No mention of bearings is provided. The limit, similar to that of claim 1, distinguishes claim 35 from Tsuboi. Therefore, the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Tsuboi has been traversed.

Entry of the amendment after final

No significant consideration or search is required because the limit added to claim 35 was a limit already in claim 1.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration. If there are any questions please call applicant's attorney at 802 864-1575.

Respectfully submitted,

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